

We are pleased to host this three-day workshop for the Northwest ecosystem restoration community. During the next two days, one of our nation's largest, next generation restoration initiatives will be described. And while certainly the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project is monumental in value and in complexity, it represents only a portion of the vast need for redirecting our collective efforts to restore our environment.

One goal of this workshop with you is to share strategies and techniques for implementing restoration on a regional scale. So, to that end, you will hear of many successes. Yet, I urge you to listen closely, to think critically, and to ask provocative questions about those successes. Listen for the lessons that lead to the successes. Try the ideas you hear onto your favorite restoration effort –to those efforts you have accomplished or, perhaps more importantly, to those efforts you dream of accomplishing. Where those ideas fit, use them. Where the ideas do not fit, question why.

The workshop you will find is structured into three parts. During the first portion you will hear directly from the folks who are on the front lines of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project. The speakers are the key planners, designers, engineers, scientists and local sponsors as well the communications specialists who took the Corps "restudy" from reconnaissance to a billion dollar congressionally appropriated ecosystem restoration construction program. (And in the category of critical thinking: Be sure to learn why the term "restudy" is used.)

Next, you can choose a topic that best fits your restoration interest. The Everglades team will split up into individual work groups to talk about their experiences and to talk about restoration issues you may have.

Lastly, we have asked managers from other Northwest Corps districts of Omaha, Kansas City, Portland, Walla Walla; Owen Mason from our Division office in Portland, and our new program manager for the Puget Sound, to talk about restoration efforts in their regions.

From this mix of talks and group discussions, we hope to expand the dialogue about what next generation restoration projects look like. How we succeed and what success looks like when we get there. You will likely hear a shift from saving individual species. Yes, we have done that and are capable of doing more. Yet, you are more likely to hear that saving each species as it approaches the brink is not good enough. We – as a nation—

have been there and done that. And it is not enough. Large-scale ecosystem restoration appears to be the most promising strategy for taking restoration to where it needs to be.

I hope you enjoy your time spent in Seattle District and value this workshop. Our preeminent environmental specialist in her “day job”, Kathy Kunz, will be our workshop moderator....Kathy